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Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8878
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 4389

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, JO
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS - JORDANIANS SAY NONALIGNED MODERATES STRENGTHENED AT COLOMBO NAC

SUMMARY: JORDAN SENIOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS BELIEVE MODERATES' BACKS WERE STIFFENED BY EXTREMISTS' RAILROADING TACTICS AT COLOMBO NAC, GIVING U.S. OPPORTUNIES TO HELP MODERATES BECOME MORE ASSERTIVE AT FUTURE NONALIGNED GATHERINGS. WITHIN ARAB GROUPING, PLO, EGYPT AND ALGERIANS LOST AT COLOMBO. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HASSN IBRAHIM WHO ATTENDED COLOMBO NAC AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATEION FOR JORDAN'S STATEMENT OF RESERVATIONS OVER KOREA AND PURETO RICO ITEMS IN POLITICAL DECLARATION OF COLOMBO CONFERENCE (COLOMBO 3176). IBRAHIM SAID ACTUALLY JORDAN EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS OVER KOREA AND CYPRUS ITEMS AND REJECTION OF PUERTO RICO ONE.

2 IBRAHIM, OBVIOUSLY IRRITATED OVER WHAT HE SAID WAS CLAUSTROPHOBIC SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN COLOMBO AND SLEEPLESS HEAT, GAVE LONG DESCRIPTION OF WHAT HE LABELED WORST NONALIGNED SESSION HE HAS EVER ATTENDED.
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EXTREMISTS, HE SAID, ATTEMPTED RAILROAD THEIR

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RESOLUTIONS THROUGH WITH SUCH CRUDE DISREGARD THAT
MODERATES' BACKS WERE STIFFENED TO LODGE OBJECTIONS
TO EXTENT HE HAD NOT SEEN BEFORE. EXTREMISTS WERE
DIFFICULT TO CONFRONT BECAUSE THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY
COORDINATED TACTICS AMONG THEMSELVES, PLACED
THEMSELVES ON IMPORTANT COMMITTEES (ESPECIALLY
DRAFTING COMMITTEES), EMPLOYED RUTHLESS METHODS
(LIMITING COPES OF DRAFT RESULUTIONS AND WITHHOLDING
DISTRIBUTION UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE VOTE), AND HAD THE
INITIATIVE OF HAVING RESOLUTIONS TO PROPOSE ON SUBJECTS
IMPORTANT TO THEM. MODERATES, BY CONTRAST, HAMPERED
BY LACK OF PRIOR CONSULTATIONS, ELEVENTH HOUR ATTEMPT
AT COORDINATION, POOR KNOWLEDGE OF FACTS OF ISSUES
AMONG SOME MODERATE DELEGATIONS, AND BEING IN POSITION
OF ONLY REACTING TO EXTREMISTS' PROPOSALS RATHER THAN
COUNTERING WITH ONES OF THEIR OWN.

3. DESPITE MODERATES' TACTICAL DISADVANTAGES,
IBRAHIM SENSED GROWING INDIGNATION AMONG THEM
ABOUT BEING PUSHED INTO EXTREMIST POSITIONS ON ISSUES
THAT ARE IRRELEVANT OR AT BEST SECONDARY TO THEIR
INTERESTS. HE ALSO SAID NUMBER OF MODERATES
INCREASING AS NON-ALIGNED CAMP INCLUDING MORE AND
MORE "STATES-MEMBERS" RATHER THAN "MOVEMENT-OBSERVERS"
AND AS CENTER OF GRAVITY OF NONALIGNED MEMBERS'
CONCERNS SHIFTING FROM GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND SLOGANS
OF ANTI-COLONIAL INDEPENDENCE TO SOMETIMES COMPETING
INTERESTS OF INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENTS.

4. IBRAHIM WANTED US TO KNOW THAT HE BELIEVES
MODERATES' EXPERIENCE AT COLOMBO GIVES USG OPPORTUNITY
TO HELP MODERATES PREPARE FOR MORE ASSERTIVE STANCE
AT FUTURE NON-ALIGNED GATHERINGS. (HEAD OF DELEGATION
AND CHIEF OF ROYAL DIWAN ABDUL HAMID SHARAF ALSO MADE
THIS POINT STRONGLY TO AMBASSADOR IN A SEPARATE
CONVERSATION ON NAC.) HE SUGGESTED WE MAKE GREATER
EFFORTS TO PROVIDE MODERATE GOVERNMENTS WITH FACTS
RE MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY ISSUES. GOJ DELEGATIONS'S
KNOWLEDGE OF DETAILS OF ISSUES LIKE KOREA AND PURERTO
RICO KELPED GIVE IT COURAGE TO SPEAK UP AT COLOMBO,
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WHILE SOME OTHER MODERATE DELEGATIONS WHO
TEMPERAMENTALY FELT THE SAME STAYED MORE ON
SIDELINES BECAUSE THEY WERE CONFUSED ABOUT FACTS
OF ISSUES. HE THOUGH WE SHOULD BECOME ESPECIALLY
ACTIVE JUST BEFORE MINSTERIAL MEETINGS, BUT HE
ALSO RECOMMENDED WE SPEND MORE TIME BRIEFING LOWER
LEVEL STAFF WHICH GOJ AND OTHERS AT COLOMBO DECIDED
TO EXPAND IN ORDER TO COMPETE BETTER WITH LARGER

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STAFFS OF NONALIGNED EXTREMISTS. AS FOR
INITIATIVES STATES LIKE JORDAN MIGHT TAKE AT FUTURE
CONFERENCES OF NONALIGNED (INCLUDING TABLING ALTERNATIVES
TO EXTREMISTS PROPOSALS,) MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON
DKPLOMATIC CONDITINS AT THE TIME --E.G.,
DIVISIONS AMONG ARAB DELEGATIONS AT COLOMBO PERMITTED
GOJ AND SAUDIS TO DISSENT FROM EXTREMISTS VIEWS
MORE THAN WOULD BE THE CASE WITH GREATER ARAB UNITY.
(SAUDIS, HE SAID, WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN TRY TO
ORGANIZE MODERATES AT COLOMBO.)

5. IBRAHIM WAS UNSURE HOW MUCH OF MODERATES'
INDIGNATION AT COLOMBO WOULD CARRY OVER INTO ANY
NONALIGNED DISUNITY AT UPCOMING UNGA SESSION, BUT HE
THOUGHT EXTREMISTS NOT IN POSITION TO BEAT HORSE OF
COLOMBO CONSENSUS PRECEDNET VERY STRONGLY IN NEW YORK.

6. TURNING TO ARAB CONSULTATIONS IN COLOMBO,
IBRAHIM POINTED TO SEVERAL INSTANCES OF IMPORTANT
DIVISION AND SAID PLO, EGYPTIANS AND TO LESSER
EXTENT ALGERIANS SUFFERED CONSIDERABLE DIPLOMATIC
LOSSES AT NAC. FOR EXAMPLE, PROPOSED RESOLUTION
FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN LORCES FROM LEBANON
NEVER TABLED BECAUSE ARAB CAUCUS SHOWED IT HAD
SUPPORT ONLY OF EGHPT, IRAQ AND PLO. EVEN CUBANS,
IBRAHIM SAID LET IT BE KNOWN THEY WOULD NOT SUPPORT
RESOLUTIONS BECAUSE IT SEEMED TO HAVE LITTLE BACKING
OF ARAB STATES. EGYPT, IN ADDITION TO BEING ON
LOSING SIDE ON THAT ISSUE, FAILED TO GET ARAB SUPPORT
FOR PROPOSED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR RENEWED GENEVA
CONFERENCE WITH PLO PARTICIPATION AS AN AVENUE FOR
FURTHER UN MEASURES TO SETTLE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS,
AND EGYPTIANS FAILED IN STRONG EFFORT TO GET SEAT ON
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NACC. WHILE ALGERIANS RETAINED NACC SEAT, THEY
LOST IMAGE OF STRONG NAC FORCE BY FAILURE TO GET
SUPPORT FOR ANTI-MOROCCO RESOLUTION ON SAHARA.

7. COMMENT: WHILE JORDANIANS HAVE REASONS FOR
WNATING TO IMPRESS US EVEN IN EXAGGERATED FASHION
WITH THEIR IMPORTANCE AS ACTORS AND INTERPRETERS
IN THE MODERATE CAMP OF NONALIGHED, EMBASSY BELIEVES
JORDANIANS'S DESCRIPTION OF HACKLES RAISED ON
MODERATES' NECKS BY EXTREMISTS'S TACTICS AT COLOMBO,
CHANGING NATURE OF NONALIGHED MOVEMENT, AND CURRENT
DISARRAY OF ARAB CAMP ON SOME ISSUES BORNE OUT BY
SOME RESULTS OF RECENT NAC. WE CANNOT EXPECT
JORDANIANS OR MOST OTHER MODERATES TO CARRY OUR
BANNER IN THIRD WORLD GATHERINGS, BUT IT DOES SEEM

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FROM JORDANIAN REMARKS AND OTHER REPORTING ON COLOMBO
NAC THAT WE MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GREATER WILLINGNESS
OF MODERATES TO ASSERT THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND NOT BE
TAKEN AS PATSIES BY EXTREMISTS IN NONALIGNED GATHERINGS.
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